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L8: Entry 1 of 1   File: USPT   Jun 22, 2004

US-PAT-NO: 6754636
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6754636 B1
** See image for **Certificate of Correction** **

TITLE: Purchasing systems and methods wherein a buyer takes possession at a
retailer of a product purchased using a communication network

DATE-ISSUED: June 22, 2004

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Walker; Jay S.	Ridgefield	CT		
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Mik; Magdalena	Greenwich	CT		
Tedesco; Daniel E.	New Canaan	CT		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Walker Digital, LLC	Stamford	CT			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 337906·· [PALM]
DATE FILED: June 22, 1999

PARENT-CASE:
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS The present application is a continuation-
in-part of U.S. patent applications Ser. No. 08/889,503 filed Jul. 8, 1997 and
entitled "System and Process for Local Acquisition of Products Priced Online" (97-
032); Ser. No. 08/889,319 filed Jul. 8, 1997 and entitled "Conditional Purchase
Offer Management System" (96-008X); Serial No. 09/190,744 filed Nov. 12, 1998 and
entitled "Method and Apparatus for A Cryptographically Assisted Commercial Network
System Designed to Facilitate Buyer-D Conditional Purchase Offers" (96-008XXX),
which is a continuation in-part application Ser No. 08/707,660, now of U.S. Pat.
No. 5,794,207, filed Sep. 4, 1996; and Ser. No. 09/083,345 filed May 22, 1998 and
entitled "Method and Apparatus for Managing Remote Vending Machine
Transactions" (97-554). The entire contents of these applications are hereby
incorporated by reference. The present application is also related to the subject
matter of U.S. patent applications Ser. No. 08/943,483 filed Oct. 3, 1997 and
entitled "System and Method for Facilitating Acceptance of Conditional Purchase
Offers" (97-072); Ser. No. 08/858,738 filed May 19, 1997 and entitled "System and
Process for Issuing and Managing Forced Redemption Vouchers Having Alias Account
Numbers" (96-139); and Ser. No. 08/997,680 filed Dec. 23, 1997 and entitled "Method
and Apparatus for Issuing and Managing Gift Certificates" (96-139X). The entire
contents of these applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27, 705/75, 705/39, 705/20, 705/14
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/14, 705/20, 705/27, 705/39, 705/75

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/27, 705/75, 705/39, 705/20, 705/14

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

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| | Search Selected | Search ALL | Clear |

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PCT International Application No. WO 98/15907 entitled "Method and Device for Constructing a Database Containing customer Data and/or Organizing a Discount or Coupon System" published to Martin Finsterwald on Apr. 16, 1998.

ART-UNIT: 3625

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Smith; Jeffrey A.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Fadok; Mark

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Fincham; Magdalena M.

ABSTRACT:

Purchasing systems and methods are provided wherein a buyer takes possession of a product at a retailer. A purchasing system may communicate with a buyer through a communication network to establish a first price for a product between the buyer and a seller. The purchasing system may also arrange for the buyer to take possession of the product at a retailer, different from the seller, that offers the product for sale at a second price. Verification information, which enables the retailer to authorize the buyer to take possession of the product, is transmitted to the retailer. The buyer provides a payment, based on the first price, to the purchasing system in exchange for the right to take possession of the product at the retailer. In one embodiment, the purchasing system receives a buyer offer, including an offer price, related to the product. In another embodiment, the purchasing system transmits redemption information, including a redemption code, to the buyer. The redemption information may also include information that enables the creation of a voucher to be used when taking possession of the product. The purchasing system may also receive information related to an attempt by the buyer to take possession of the product, including the redemption code, from the retailer.

23 Claims, 40 Drawing figures

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L8: Entry 1 of 1   File: USPT   Jun 22, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6754636 B1
** See image for Certificate of Correction **
TITLE: Purchasing systems and methods wherein a buyer takes possession at a
retailer of a product purchased using a communication network

Application Filing Date (1):
19990622

Detailed Description Text (14):
A more detailed description of one embodiment of the present invention will now be
provided with respect to FIG. 1B. As before, the system 20 includes a number of
buyer devices 210 (such as PCs executing browser application software) coupled to a
purchasing system device 310 (such as a Web server) through the Internet 110.
Although embodiments of the present invention will be described with respect to
information exchanged using a Web site, according to other embodiments of the
present invention information may instead be exchanged using, for example: a
telephone; a facsimile machine; e-mail; a WebTV interface; a cable network
interface, or a wireless device. Information exchanged between a buyer and
purchasing system device 310, as well as between a retailer and the purchasing
system device 310, may also use a Voice Response Unit (VRU) or Interactive VRU
(IVRU). Examples of IVRUs include the Vision 2001 and the Insight IVR/Web from
Interactive Voice Technologies, Corp. and the OmniVox for Windows NT from APEX
Voice Communications. An IVRU lets a user of a DTMF (Dual Tone Multi-Frequency)
tone generating telephone, also known as "push button" telephone, communicate with
a computer. The DTMF signals received from a user's telephone are interpreted by an
IVRU server, and the server may also communicate with the user by generating and
transmitting voice or other audio signals, such as a list of IVRU menu options.

Detailed Description Text (24):
The purchasing system device 310 may communicate with the retailer device 410 in
real time during the redemption of a voucher. That is, a POS controller may connect
to the purchasing system device 310 when a buyer is attempting to take possession
of the product. In another embodiment, the retailer device 410 and the purchasing
system device 310 communicate periodically, such as every night at midnight. For
example, the purchasing system device 310 could communicate with each retailer
device 410 daily regarding the buyer redemption codes, redeemable at the retailer,
that have been issued. Likewise, the retailer device 410 can in turn transmit to
the purchasing system device 310 a list of the redemption codes that have been
redeemed at the retailer in the last 24 hours. In some embodiments, the retailer is
the seller who accepts a buyer's offer. In such an embodiment, the retailer device
410 could also perform the function of, or be in communication with another server
that performs the function of, a potential seller.

Detailed Description Text (29):
FIG. 2A illustrates a purchasing system device 310 that is descriptive of the
device shown in FIG. 1B according to a "local database" embodiment of the present
invention, wherein the information about products (available from sellers) for sale
through the purchasing system is stored locally at the purchasing system device

310. The purchasing system device 310 comprises a processor 320, such as one or more Pentium.RTM. processors, coupled to: a communication port 340 configured to communicate through a communication network (not shown in FIG. 2A); an input device 342 (such as a keyboard or mouse); a display 344; and a printer 346. The communication port 340 may be used to communicate with, for example: (i) a plurality of seller devices 510; (ii) a plurality of buyer devices 210; and/or (iii) a plurality of retailer devices 410. The sellers may comprise, for example, product manufacturers and/or retailers. The buyers may comprise individuals who "log onto" a Web site and submit offers to purchase products (i.e., buyer offers). The Web site may be: (i) hosted by a <u>server</u> at the purchasing system device 310 or (ii) hosted by a <u>server</u> coupled to the purchasing system device 310.

<u>Detailed Description Text</u> (30):
The processor 320 is also in communication with a data storage device 330. The data storage device 330 comprises an appropriate combination of magnetic, optical and/or semiconductor memory, and may include Random Access Memory (RAM), Read-Only Memory (ROM) and/or a hard disk. The processor 320 and the storage device 330 may each be (i) located entirely within a single computer or other computing device; (ii) connected to each other by a remote communication medium, such as a serial port cable, telephone line or wireless frequency transceiver; or (iii) a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the purchasing system device 310 may comprise one or more computers that are connected to a remote <u>server</u> computer for maintaining databases.

<u>Detailed Description Text</u> (60):
According to the routing embodiment, the seller stores the database of products available for sale through the purchasing system device 310. The <u>seller</u> device 510 may also store the "collected demand" for <u>products (or for product</u> descriptions that <u>match the seller's products</u>) directly as buyer offers are received from the purchasing system device 310. For example, the purchasing system device 310 may have 100 outstanding offers for a particular television model at a certain average price. While a seller may not wish to sell a single television at that price, it may agree to do so because the sale will involve 100 televisions (and therefore provide sufficient profit).

<u>Current US Original Classification</u> (1):
705/26

<u>Current US Cross Reference Classification</u> (3):
705/27

<u>US Reference Patentee Name</u> (45):
<u>Bezos</u>

<u>US Reference Group</u> (45):
5727163 19980300 <u>Bezos</u> 395/227

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L9: Entry 3 of 5   File: USPT   Sep 28, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5960411
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5960411 A

TITLE: Method and system for placing a purchase order via a communications network

DATE-ISSUED: September 28, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Hartman; Peri	Seattle	WA		
Bezos; Jeffrey P.	Seattle	WA		
Kaphan; Shel	Seattle	WA		
Spiegel; Joel	Seattle	WA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Amazon.com, Inc.	Seattle	WA			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 928951   [PALM]
DATE FILED: September 12, 1997

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27, 345/962
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/27, 715/962

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/27, 380/24, 380/25, 235/2, 235/375, 235/378, 235/381, 395/188.01, 345/962

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected   Search ALL   Clear

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☐	5260999	November 1993	Wyman	384/4
☐	5627940	May 1997	Rohra et al.	395/12
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Hoque, Reaz, "A Shopping Cart Application with JavaScript," Web Techniques, May 1998, pp. 63, 65-66, and 68.

ART-UNIT: 274

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Trammell; James P.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Smith; Demetra R.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Perkins Coie LLP

ABSTRACT:

A method and system for placing an order to purchase an item via the Internet. The order is placed by a purchaser at a client system and received by a server system. The server system receives purchaser information including identification of the purchaser, payment information, and shipment information from the client system. The server system then assigns a client identifier to the client system and associates the assigned client identifier with the received purchaser information. The server system sends to the client system the assigned client identifier and an HTML document identifying the item and including an order button. The client system receives and stores the assigned client identifier and receives and displays the HTML document. In response to the selection of the order button, the client system sends to the server system a request to purchase the identified item. The server system receives the request and combines the purchaser information associated with the client identifier of the client system to generate an order to purchase the item in accordance with the billing and shipment information whereby the purchaser effects the ordering of the product by selection of the order button.

26 Claims, 12 Drawing figures

Hit List

Search Results - Record(s) 1 through 3 of 3 returned.

☐ 1. Document ID: US 6606608 B1

L11: Entry 1 of 3   File: USPT   Aug 12, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6606608
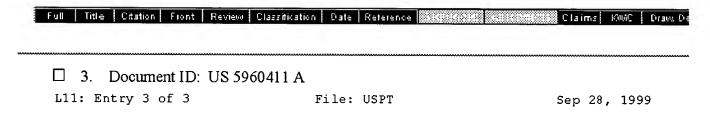DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6606608 B1

TITLE: Method and system for providing a discount at an auction

Full | Title | Citation | Front | Review | Classification | Date | Reference | Claims | KWIC | Draw De

☐ 2. Document ID: US 6029141 A

L11: Entry 2 of 3   File: USPT   Feb 22, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6029141
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6029141 A

TITLE: Internet-based customer referral system

Full | Title | Citation | Front | Review | Classification | Date | Reference | Claims | KWIC | Draw De

☐ 3. Document ID: US 5960411 A

L11: Entry 3 of 3   File: USPT   Sep 28, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5960411
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5960411 A

TITLE: Method and system for placing a purchase order via a communications network

Full | Title | Citation | Front | Review | Classification | Date | Reference | Claims | KWIC | Draw De

Terms	Documents
L9 and L7	3

Display Format: TI   Change Format

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☐ | Generate Collection | | Print |

L15: Entry 1 of 1　　　　　　　　File: USPT　　　　　　Dec 22, 1998

US-PAT-NO: 5852812
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5852812 A
** See image for **Certificate of Correction** **

TITLE: Billing system for a network

DATE-ISSUED: December 22, 1998

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Reeder; Mary	Seattle	WA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Microsoft Corporation	Redmond	WA			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 518253　[PALM]
DATE FILED: August 23, 1995

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/39; 705/26, 705/34, 705/40
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/39; 705/26, 705/34, 705/40

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 395/201, 395/216, 395/217, 395/220, 395/221, 395/226, 395/227,
395/230, 395/234, 395/235, 395/238, 395/239, 395/240, 395/241, 395/242, 395/601,
395/610, 395/200.01, 340/825.3, 340/825.33, 235/375, 235/377, 235/378, 235/379,
235/380, 235/382

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Search Selected | | Search ALL | | Clear |

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
☐	4766293	August 1988	Boston	395/241
☐	4799156	January 1989	Shavit et al.	395/226
☐	4926368	May 1990	Morita et al.	364/715.05
☐	5311302	May 1994	Berry et al.	348/14
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☐	5420405	May 1995	Chasek	235/379
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☐	5526035	June 1996	Lappington et al.	348/13
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☐	5570126	October 1996	Blahut et al.	348/7
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PC Magazine; v13 n13; Jul. 1994; cover only.
"New on the Net"; Internet Business News; Dec. 8, 1994; Dialog: File 16, Acc# 05409204.
Lang; "Cashing in: The Rush is on to Buy and Sell on the Internet"; Advertising Age; Dec. 19, 1994; p. 11; Dialog: File 16, Acc# 05419137.

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Tracs; Stephen R.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Leydig, Voit & Mayer, Ltd.

ABSTRACT:

A billing system for on-line computer networks is disclosed. Customers of the on-line system are billed in their own currency for billable events which are generated. Billable events can include access to premium services, file downloads or gateway connections to other systems. Real-time processing of billable events allows the system to post charges to a customer's on-line charge statement quickly following generation of the billable event.

31 Claims, 12 Drawing figures

☐ Generate Collection   Print

L15: Entry 1 of 1   File: USPT   Dec 22, 1998

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5852812 A
** See image for Certificate of Correction **
TITLE: Billing system for a network

Detailed Description Text (15):
The host data center 14 can interface with a marketing department computer 24 so
that events that are generated at the host data center 14 can be used by the
marketing department for gauging customers' interest in a particular area of the
distributed network. For example, the marketing department may be interested in
knowing how often customers access a particular area of the network and what is
their purchasing profile (e.g., do they live in an upper income neighborhood as
expressed by their zip codes). By communicating with the host data center 14, the
marketing department can be provided with this type of information.

Detailed Description Text (22):
The main function of the gateway 12 is to allow a computer, such as one of the
customer computers 10 to communicate with one network protocol with another
computer located in the host data center 14 which has its own network protocol. The
gateway 12 also manages traffic from the host data center 14 to the customer 10.
The gateways 12 provide ready access to other networks such as the Internet. For
example, a Gateway 60 might provide the customer 10a with access to an external
service provider 62. It should be understood that the present system is extensible
so that multiple gateways can service the host data center 14 and the customers
without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Detailed Description Text (25):
Once the event collector 102 has gathered event object files, they are typically
communicated to another server, e.g., administration servers 105, marketing
analysis server 106, or a billing server. The administration servers 105 are used
to manage computer traffic within the host data center 14. The marketing analysis
server 106 is used by the marketing department 24 to analyze data stored within the
event objects that were gathered by the event collector 102.

Detailed Description Text (27):
FIG. 3 shows a detailed view of the flow of data between the gateway 12,
application server 100, event collector 102, database server 104, billing server
108 and marketing analysis server 106. As is shown, data flows from the gateway 12
to the application server 100 as an interprocess communication pipe between these
systems is opened.

Detailed Description Text (31):
After the export format file has been created on the event collector, it is
imported by either the marketing analysis server 106 or billing server 108. These
servers use data from the event objects, such as Customer ID number and Event ID
number, to produce bills or usage statements. The following section discusses the
structure of the event objects and their class hierarchy.

Detailed Description Text (70):

Other processes within the network, such as a <u>marketing</u> computer, can access the export format files and filter out the data that pertains to <u>marketing</u> decisions. An example of data that might be useful to the <u>marketing</u> department of a company could be, for example, the number of users who have accessed a particular bulletin board forum. By knowing how many users have accessed a particular bulletin board, the <u>marketing</u> department can decide how strong or weak of an advertising campaign to make for that area.

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Refine Search

Search Results -

Terms	Documents
L19 and (calibrat$ with pixel$)	1

Database:

- US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database
- US Patents Full-Text Database
- US OCR Full-Text Database
- EPO Abstracts Database
- JPO Abstracts Database
- Derwent World Patents Index
- IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search:

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L1 and database
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Refine Search

Recall Text ⬌   Clear   Interrupt

Search History

DATE: Friday, ████ **25, 2005**   Printable Copy   Create Case

Set Name side by side	Query	Hit Count	Set Name result set
DB=USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR			
L20	L19 and (calibrat$ with pixel$)	1	L20
L19	6157396.pn.	1	L19
L18	L16 and (bill$ same merchant)	1	L18
L17	L16 and (bill$ with merchant)	1	L17
L16	L1 or l14	2	L16
L15	L14 and market$ and traffic$	1	L15
L14	5852812.pn.	1	L14
L13	L1 and conver$	0	L13
L12	L1 and ((present$ or show$ or distribut$ or display$) with form$)	0	L12
L11	L1 and ((present$ or show$ or distribut$ or display$) with (time or period$ or duration))	1	L11
L10	L1 and (display$ same (time or period$ or duration))	0	L10
L9	L1 and (display$ with (time or period$ or duration))	0	L9

L8	L1 and (display$)		1	L8
L7	L1 and (display$)		1	L7
L6	L5 or l4 or l3 or l2 or l1		5	L6
L5	6029141.pn.		1	L5
L4	6157396.pn.		1	L4
L3	5960411.pn.		1	L3
L2	5612741.pn.		1	L2
L1	6754636.pn.		1	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

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L7: Entry 1 of 1   File: USPT   Jun 22, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6754636 B1
** See image for <u>Certificate of Correction</u> **
TITLE: Purchasing systems and methods wherein a buyer takes possession at a
retailer of a product purchased using a communication network

Detailed Description Text (14):
A more detailed description of one embodiment of the present invention will now be
provided with respect to FIG. 1B. As before, the system 20 includes a number of
buyer devices 210 (such as PCs executing browser application software) coupled to a
purchasing system device 310 (such as a Web server) through the Internet 110.
Although embodiments of the present invention will be described with respect to
information exchanged using a Web site, according to other embodiments of the
present invention information may instead be exchanged using, for example: a
telephone; a facsimile machine; e-mail; a WebTV interface; a cable network
interface, or a wireless device. Information exchanged between a buyer and
purchasing system device 310, as well as between a retailer and the purchasing
system device 310, may also use a Voice Response Unit (VRU) or Interactive VRU
(IVRU). Examples of IVRUs include the Vision 2001 and the Insight IVR/Web from
Interactive Voice Technologies, Corp. and the OmniVox for Windows NT from APEX
Voice Communications. An IVRU lets a user of a DTMF (Dual Tone Multi-Frequency)
tone generating telephone, also known as "push <u>button</u>" telephone, communicate with
a computer. The DTMF signals received from a user's telephone are interpreted by an
IVRU server, and the server may also communicate with the user by generating and
transmitting voice or other audio signals, such as a list of IVRU menu options.

Detailed Description Text (29):
FIG. 2A illustrates a purchasing system device 310 that is descriptive of the
device shown in FIG. 1B according to a "local database" embodiment of the present
invention, wherein the information about products (available from sellers) for sale
through the purchasing system is stored locally at the purchasing system device
310. The purchasing system device 310 comprises a processor 320, such as one or
more Pentium.RTM. processors, coupled to: a communication port 340 configured to
communicate through a communication network (not shown in FIG. 2A); an input device
342 (such as a <u>keyboard</u> or mouse); a display 344; and a printer 346. The
communication port 340 may be used to communicate with, for example: (i) a
plurality of seller devices 510; (ii) a plurality of buyer devices 210; and/or
(iii) a plurality of retailer devices 410. The sellers may comprise, for example,
product manufacturers and/or retailers. The buyers may comprise individuals who
"log onto" a Web site and submit offers to purchase products (i.e., buyer offers).
The Web site may be: (i) hosted by a server at the purchasing system device 310 or
(ii) hosted by a server coupled to the purchasing system device 310.

Detailed Description Text (188):
The buyer brings the voucher to a participating retailer and brings the product to
the POS terminal or register. According to one embodiment of the present invention,
the POS register has an Internet, or other network (e.g., a credit card network),
connection to the purchasing system device 310. The cashier scans or inputs into
the network a redemption code, such as a bar code included on the voucher along, in

some embodiments, with the product bar code. The POS opens a link to the purchasing system device 310 to verify the redemption code and to authorize the transaction. The link may be automatically opened by the system's recognition of the redemption code, or the cashier may actuate a "purchasing system" button to open the connection. A signal is sent to the purchasing system device 310 including the redemption code and, perhaps, the product identifier and a retailer identifier.

Detailed Description Text (202):
According to still another embodiment of the present invention, an extra fee may be charged for "guaranteed" availability at local store. When submitting an offer, the buyer checks off a "guaranteed availability at a particular retailer" button. Upon receiving an acceptance of the buyer's offer, the purchasing system device 310 determines which, if any, retailer currently has the product in stock and communicates with the retailer to have the product put aside for the buyer (this may be done, for example, via e-mail or facsimile). The extra fee that the buyer pays for this guaranteed availability may be disbursed (the entire or partial amount) to the retailer which puts the product aside.

Detailed Description Text (204):
According to another embodiment of the present invention, the voucher contains commands that change the retail price to the price named by the buyer. The command may be, for example, determine an appropriate amount to subtract from the retail price such that the product costs $X. The voucher may also contain a command that prompts the POS to instruct the buyer to swipe the credit card used to bind the buyer offer. The POS then verifies that the credit card has the same number that is embedded in the voucher's bar code. If so, the price is applied to the product and the scanned credit card can be used to make the purchase. This lets the buyer's credit card act as a private key.

☐ ░░Generate Collection░░   Print

L6: Entry 1 of 1   File: USPT   Jun 22, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6754636 B1
** See image for Certificate of Correction **
TITLE: Purchasing systems and methods wherein a buyer takes possession at a
retailer of a product purchased using a communication network

Detailed Description Text (3):
FIG. 1A is a block diagram overview of a system 10 according to one embodiment of
the present invention. The system 10 includes a number of buyer devices 200 coupled
to a purchasing system device 300 through a communication network 100. The buyer
devices 200 may be, for example, Personal Computers (PCs), Personal Digital
Assistants (PDAs), wired or wireless telephones, one-way or two-way pagers, kiosks,
Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), watches enabled to communicate with the network
100, or any other appropriate communication device.

Detailed Description Text (4):
The communication network 100 may be, for example, a Local Area Network (LAN), a
Wide Area Network (WAN), a wireless network, a Public Switched Telephone Network
(PSTN), or an Internet Protocol (IP) network such as the Internet, an intranet or
an extranet. In one embodiment, the buyer devices 200 communicate with a remote
Web-based purchasing system device 300 through the Internet.

Detailed Description Text (14):
A more detailed description of one embodiment of the present invention will now be
provided with respect to FIG. 1B. As before, the system 20 includes a number of
buyer devices 210 (such as PCs executing browser application software) coupled to a
purchasing system device 310 (such as a Web server) through the Internet 110.
Although embodiments of the present invention will be described with respect to
information exchanged using a Web site, according to other embodiments of the
present invention information may instead be exchanged using, for example: a
telephone; a facsimile machine; e-mail; a WebTV interface; a cable network
interface, or a wireless device. Information exchanged between a buyer and
purchasing system device 310, as well as between a retailer and the purchasing
system device 310, may also use a Voice Response Unit (VRU) or Interactive VRU
(IVRU). Examples of IVRUs include the Vision 2001 and the Insight IVR/Web from
Interactive Voice Technologies, Corp. and the OmniVox for Windows NT from APEX
Voice Communications. An IVRU lets a user of a DTMF (Dual Tone Multi-Frequency)
tone generating telephone, also known as "push button" telephone, communicate with
a computer. The DTMF signals received from a user's telephone are interpreted by an
IVRU server, and the server may also communicate with the user by generating and
transmitting voice or other audio signals, such as a list of IVRU menu options.

Detailed Description Text (30):
The processor 320 is also in communication with a data storage device 330. The data
storage device 330 comprises an appropriate combination of magnetic, optical and/or
semiconductor memory, and may include Random Access Memory (RAM), Read-Only Memory
(ROM) and/or a hard disk. The processor 320 and the storage device 330 may each be
(i) located entirely within a single computer or other computing device; (ii)
connected to each other by a remote communication medium, such as a serial port

cable, <u>telephone</u> line or wireless frequency transceiver; or (iii) a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the purchasing system device 310 may comprise one or more computers that are connected to a remote server computer for maintaining databases.

Detailed Description Text (154):
Instead of a printed voucher 2200, the redemption information may instead simply be a number or alphanumeric identifier provided to the buyer. In this case, the buyer could write the information down (such as when receiving the information over the <u>telephone</u>) and bring the number to the retailer when taking possession of the product.

Detailed Description Text (162):
FIGS. 26A to 26C are flow charts illustrating, from the purchasing system's perspective, a method in which a buyer takes possession of a product at a retailer according to an embodiment of the present invention. At 2602, the purchasing system receives a buyer identifier through a communication network such as the Internet. Primary offer information is received from the buyer at 2604 (e.g., product category, selected features, price buyer is ready to pay). If desired, secondary offer information from buyer may also be received at 2604 (i.e. trade-off features and/or prices, and whether buyer is willing to be bound to the secondary offer). A payment identifier and other identifying information (e.g., credit card number, name, <u>telephone</u> number, and e-mail address) is also received from the buyer at 2606. This information may be saved, along with the buyer offer information, at the purchasing system at 2608.

Detailed Description Text (175):
The buyer then enters the price he or she is ready to pay or agrees to a price presented by the purchasing system. The buyer may then enter payment information (thereby guaranteeing to purchase a television that matches his criteria) and other identifying information (e.g., name, <u>telephone</u> number, e-mail address). The buyer may then be taken through a series of questions and/or conditions. In other words, the buyer can have some input in establishing one or more of the following conditions:

Detailed Description Text (182):
By way of example, consider a buyer that offers $300 for a "class 1" camera having a zoom lens and a tripod. If the purchasing system device 310 does not find a match for such a product it may query the database for a "class 1" camera with just a zoom lens for $250. If a substitute product is found, the purchasing system device 310 presents the option of purchasing it to the buyer. The counter-offer may be presented to the buyer in real time or at a later date (e.g., when inventory becomes available later). The counter-offer message may be sent using, for example, regular mail, e-mail, the Web, a facsimile machine, a <u>telephone,</u> a PDA or a beeper.

Detailed Description Text (186):
A list of retailers may be printed on a single voucher along with contact information (such as an address and a <u>phone</u> number to let the buyer double-check that the product is in stock). The buyer may be instead be issued a number of separate vouchers, each voucher being redeemable at a different retailer. Supplemental or additional offers at a retailer or merchant can also be included in the voucher.

Detailed Description Text (211):
According to another embodiment of the present invention, prices available to a buyer through the purchasing system device 310 vary based on the buyer (e.g., the buyer's transactional history with the purchasing system device 310) or the buyer's location (e.g., based on a <u>telephone</u> number area code or the buyer's home address ZIP code). For example, the settlement price may be based on the number of

transactions previously completed by the buyer with the purchasing system (e.g., if the buyer previously completed no transactions the minimum selling price is $200, if the buyer previously completed 1 transaction the minimum price is $195, and so on). A "complete" transaction may comprise, for example: (i) submitting an offer to the purchasing system device 310; (ii) having an offer accepted by the purchasing system device 310; or (iii) redeeming a voucher at a retailer.

Detailed Description Text (215):
According to another embodiment of the present invention, instead of the purchasing system transmitting redemption information to the buyer, the redemption information is instead sent from the buyer to the purchasing system. For example, the buyer may supply his or her name, address, social security number, telephone number and/or a password to the purchasing system. In this case, the buyer can provide the redemption information to the retailer to take possession of the product.

a penalty imposed if the buyer does not take possession of the product, such as a
flat fee or percentage of the offered price if the buyer does not take possession
of the product within a predefined time period (the buyer may also agree to have
the product shipped at the buyer's expense);

Detailed Description Text (179):
whether the buyer would rather take possession of the product at a retailer or
simply have the product shipped (in which case a shipping fee may either be
included in, or added to, the offer price); and

Detailed Description Text (187):
If the buyer cannot find the television at any participating retailer, the
purchasing system device 310 may provide the buyer assistance with: (i) locating
the product; (ii) voiding the transaction; (iii) finding a substitute product; or
(iv) having the product shipped, perhaps at the purchasing system's cost.

Detailed Description Text (203):
It is also possible, according to another embodiment of the present invention, for
the seller to ship the product to the buyer if the buyer cannot find the product in
a local retailer within a predefined time period. In this case, the seller may
"guarantee" the product to the buyer. If the buyer cannot find the product, a
purchasing system service representatives may help track the product down. If the
product cannot be found, the purchasing system device 310 notifies the
manufacturer, who ships the product to the buyer at no extra charge.

Detailed Description Text (205):
According to another embodiment of the present invention, the purchasing system
device 310 tracks the redemption rate of vouchers at retailers. When a week has
passed and the buyer has not taken possession of the product, the purchasing system
generates an e-mail that lets the buyer either cancel the contract or have the
product shipped. Also, if a buyer has used the voucher a "thank you" message can be
sent to the buyer (e.g., via e-mail) along with other types of offers (e.g., for
additional products the buyer may be interested in purchasing).

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L4: Entry 1 of 1   File: USPT   Jun 22, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6754636 B1
** See image for Certificate of Correction **
TITLE: Purchasing systems and methods wherein a buyer takes possession at a
retailer of a product purchased using a communication network

Brief Summary Text (8):
Having a product shipped to a buyer, which is the conventional mode of delivering a
product purchased online, presents several drawbacks. For example, many buyers are
not home during the day and cannot sign for, or otherwise arrange to receive, the
product from a delivery service. In addition, the shipping service itself presents
an additional cost that, depending on the product, may offset any savings made
possible by shopping online. Finally, some products simply cannot be delivered at
all, such as a service provided to buyers.

Brief Summary Text (9):
With respect to a buyer, another disadvantage of online shopping is the delay
involved with receiving a product. The online shopping community has not
effectively captured the impulsive and impatient buyer market, because a buyer is
more likely to impulsively purchase a product when he or she can take immediate
possession (instead of waiting several days for delivery). In other words, a buyer
who wants a product immediately is likely to visit a retailer and not buy the
product online.

Detailed Description Text (36):
In another embodiment of the present invention, a product manufacturer (acting as a
seller) can bypass a retailer's pricing structure and establish a price for a
product directly with a buyer without the burden of delivering the product to the
buyer. Similarly, an embodiment of the present invention lets a retailer (acting as
a seller) establish a price for a product with a particular buyer without lowering
the price for the product typically charged at a retail store. This can attract new
buyers without giving a discounted price to all customers who visit the retail
store.

Detailed Description Text (51):
If more than seller accepts the buyer offer, the purchasing system device 310 may
select which seller will be used to fulfill the buyer offer. The purchasing system
device 310 may, for example, simply use the first acceptance that is received. The
purchasing system device 310 may instead, for example, send an offer to a second
group of sellers if, and only if, every one of a first group of sellers has
rejected the offer. The purchasing system device 310 may also, for example, award
the buyer offer to a seller that guarantees to deliver the product to the buyer
within 2 hours (e.g., through a local courier service). Similar consideration may
include, for example: (i) the seller's volume; (ii) the profit to the purchasing
system; (iii) the profit to the retailer or manufacturer; and (iv) a pre-set
ranking of sellers or classes of sellers. Note that these considerations may also
apply in the previously described local database embodiment.

Detailed Description Text (178):

Refine Search

Search Results -

Terms	Documents
L1 and (still$ or image or picture)	1

Database:

US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database
US Patents Full-Text Database
US OCR Full-Text Database
EPO Abstracts Database
JPO Abstracts Database
Derwent World Patents Index
IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search: L11

Refine Search

Recall Text   Clear   Interrupt

Search History

DATE: Friday, ████████ **2005**   Printable Copy   Create Case

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L10	L8 and (gps same location)	1	L10
L9	L8 and gps	1	L9
L8	6266442.pn.	1	L8
L7	L1 and (button or key$)	1	L7
L6	L1 and (telephone or cell$ or phone)	1	L6
L5	L1 and ship$	1	L5
L4	L1 and (ship$ or deliver$)	1	L4
L3	L1 and database and (prefer$ or select$ or cho$)	1	L3
L2	L1 and database	1	L2
L1	6754636.pn.	1	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY